

Dr. Peterson

NACUBO Sustainability Advisory Panel

Monday, Feb. 16, 2015, Carnegie Building, President's Conference Room

Good morning to the Panel, and welcome to Georgia Tech.

To paraphrase a country song that was popular some time back, Georgia Tech was into sustainability before sustainability was cool. You can barely take a step on our campus without running into evidence of that effort. The ethic of sustainability permeates everything we do at Georgia Tech, from campus living to community involvement to research efforts to curriculum. As JulieAnne and Anne have alluded, we take a holistic approach.

I should say at this point that Steve Swant, our executive VP for administration & finance, and a member of your panel, has been a champion for Georgia Tech on this issue. He's known nationally for his passion for sustainability. Recently, the *Engineering News-Record* named him one of the year's Top 25 Newsmakers for his leadership.

In 2000, Georgia Tech was the first campus in the (then 35-campus) Board of Regents system to develop a Campus Historic Preservation Plan. This was updated in 2010 to also include historic landscapes. All renovations since 2007 have achieved some level of LEED certification; most of them are LEED Gold.

Tech Tower, right next door to us, is an example of that commitment. It was erected in 1888, making it the oldest building on campus. And to borrow from another song, if we can do it there, we can do it anywhere. It's a microcosm of some of the efforts we have going on all over the Georgia Tech campus.

Short of not building anything, the most sustainable building project is to leverage existing physical resources on your campus. Since 1997, Georgia Tech has renovated

almost 1.5M square feet of existing facilities. Tech Tower is currently in the design phase of a renovation effort that we believe will bring it up to the LEED Gold standard.

We will renovate the building envelope of Tech Tower to improve energy efficiencies and reduce our utility bills. Another component of our sustainability strategy for Tech Tower is to improve space utilization. So if we can do more with less, it's a big win for everyone.

The Old Civil Engineering Building was the first LEED Gold historic-renovation building in the BOR system. We hope to inspire others in the system to do the same with their historic assets.

Georgia Tech offers more than 200 courses, spanning every college, which focus on sustainability or include an emphasis area of sustainability. We have a goal that all students will take at least one course in sustainability by the time they graduate. Georgia Tech's commitment to environmental sustainability reflects our promise to produce the technological leaders of the future.

Sustainability at Georgia Tech is not just the job of one office or one College. Sustainability is everyone's concern. JulieAnne's and Anne's presentation mentioned our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), "Serve-Learn-Sustain." We want to equip Georgia Tech students with the knowledge and capabilities to effectively address sustainability challenges and interrelated community-level societal needs in their professions and civic lives.

That will require a close coordination and partnership between all aspects of the university — from the classroom to the laboratory to the field — in this case, the campus as a living-learning laboratory.

During your visit, you will see examples of these partnerships, such as the work the Aerospace Systems Design Lab and the Strategic Energy Institute are doing in modeling our infrastructure systems and testing new technologies in the CNES building operations.

Every industrialized nation has a goal of efficient energy generation. Georgia Tech is a hub for developing innovative new energy resources that will meet the needs of a contemporary society in a clean, cost-effective way. To support this mission, the Institute is attracting the best minds in research and the federal funding to support their important work.

Most campuses have a Campus Master Plan, but few have a Landscape Master Plan. We have both. One of our major goals is to develop an integrated, ecologically-based landscape and open-space system that helps Georgia Tech achieve its goal of environmental sustainability. We'd like to achieve a 50 percent reduction of current storm water entering the Atlanta sewer system.

Tech's 1.4-million-gallon cistern is helping us do that. It collects rain and condensation water for flushing and irrigation is the largest system on a U.S. campus.

Other points of pride:

- Through a generous gift from a Georgia Tech alumnus, the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems enhances Georgia Tech's research, education, and service missions, and campus operations through leadership, communications, development, and decision-making inspired and defined by the principles of sustainability.
- Georgia Tech addresses sustainability issues in transportation through numerous channels. Research focuses on alternative fuels, fuel efficiency, transportation usage, policy and planning, and transportation infrastructure. The Institute offers

environmentally responsible biodiesel transportation choices for students, faculty and staff; the Stingers, Tech Trolleys and Stingerette vehicles carry about 3 million riders annually.

- Georgia Tech is one of 33 institutions that have taken the Billion Dollar Green Challenge to invest a cumulative total of \$1 billion in self-managed, green revolving funds that finance energy-efficient upgrades on campus.

That's a quick overview of some of the things we're doing at Georgia Tech. We hope you enjoy the rest of your visit, and that some of what you see will inspire your sustainability efforts on your own campus. Thank you very much for allowing us to share our outlook with you.